

REMARKS

Claims 25-27 and 29-32 are all the claims pending in the application. Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 25-27 and 29-32 are amended. Claim 28 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 26-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-8 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,236,148. Applicant submits that this ground of rejection is moot in view of the amendment of claims 25-27 and 29-32. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection is requested.

As best understood by Applicant, claim 25 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Oshima (U.S. Patent No. 4,967,116). Applicant notes that the Examiner states that claim 1 is rejected while referring to the limitations of claim 25. Applicant further notes that claims 1-24 were previously cancelled. This ground of rejection is traversed.

Applicant submits that Oshima fails to anticipate all the limitations of the spark plug defined by independent claim 25. For instance, claim 25 recites that “a surface of the gasket is coated with a chromate film including trivalent chrome, and wherein said chromate film contains chrome components in which a ratio of the trivalent chrome is 95% or more.” This feature is not disclosed or suggested by the spark plug of Oshima. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 25 is requested. Further, claims 26-27 and 29-32 are allowable at least by virtue of depending from claim 25, and allowance of these claims is likewise requested.

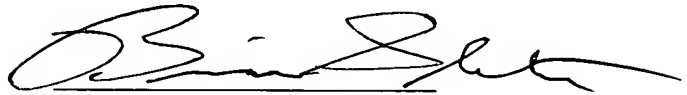
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/802,719

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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